Gravimetric Doser

BIGG

5 Gravimans – User Manual

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1. Introduction

1.1. Graviman Unit

The Graviman continuous dosing unit is used for keeping track of the raw material flow by the use of a loss-in-weight method. In this method, the rate of weight reduction in the weighing bucket of the Graviman is consistently monitored.
The Graviman system features:

- Omron's industrial Programmable Logic Controller.
- Omron's color touch screen user interface console.
- Advanced modeling method (as opposed to regular methods such as PID etc.) to control the speed of the extruder and the screw feeders. The modeling algorithm has many advantages: high accuracy, immunity to many kinds of disturbances, non-linear control and very high stability.
- Semi-automatic calibration.
- A combination of hardware and software signal conditioning and filtering ensures shock and vibration resistant operation.
- No need for tuning or setup when replacing raw materials.

1.2. Continuous Graviman Weigh-unit

The Graviman weigh-unit can be operated in one of two ways:

1. As a single unit fixed straight on the feed throat of the production machine, working as a continuous weight controller with one type of raw material.
2. As a combined dosing and weighing controlling unit with a number of Graviman weighing modules. A central unit doses directly into the main outlet pipe while secondary additive units use screw feeders to dose to the outlet pipe. The central unit calculates the desired throughput while the secondary units adjust their screw feeder outputs accordingly.

1.3. Principles of Operation

1. At startup, the system controller (PLC) checks the amount of material in the weighing-bucket and fills it up as necessary by opening the pneumatic shutter.
2. The weighing-unit provides the PLC with continuous weight readout.
3. During production, when the material weight in the weighing bucket is reduced to a predetermined minimum level, the pneumatic shutter is opened and the bucket is refilled.
4. The PLC calculates throughput by using weight data and the RPM of the screw feeder.

1.4. Creating a Continuous Dosing System

Linking several Graviman units and screw feeders is enough to create a continuous dosing system. As a dosing system the controller calculates the throughput for each screw feeder using data from the continuous weigh-unit. Each screw feeder is fixed to a Graviman weigh-unit making closed loop control a possibility. The central system controller uses loss-in-weight and screw feeder RPM in order to calculate the percentage of screw rotation for each channel.
Each screw feeder in the dosing system has to be able to cope with its intended throughput. The throughput for each channel is a function of batch composition (material density) and system throughput.

Note: The explanation in this manual and the screen illustrations accompanying it, refer to a continuous weighing system consisting of five combined Graviman units. Screen attributes may vary from system to system.

2. System Overview

2.1. Control Panel

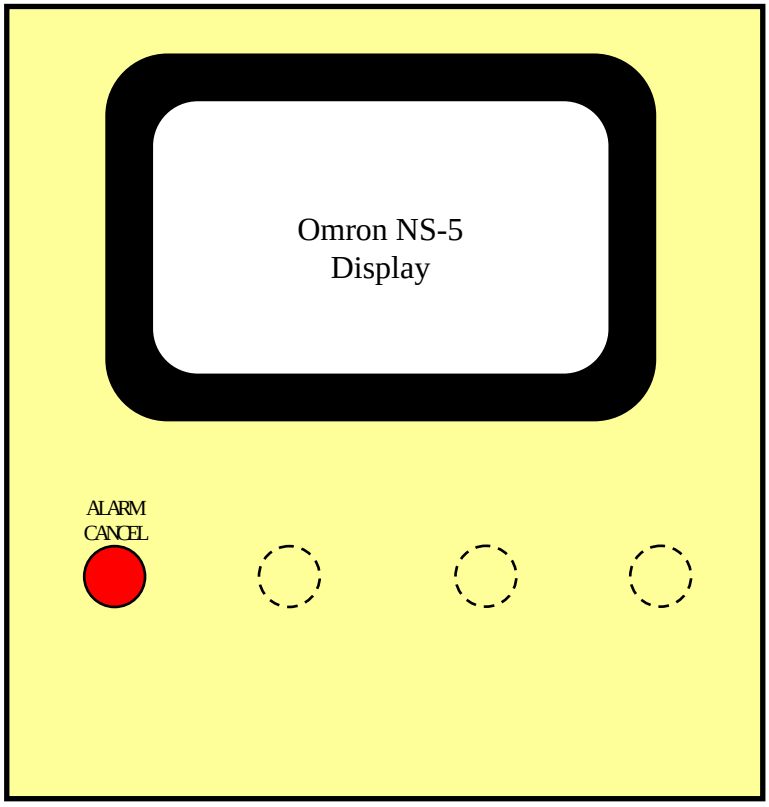


Figure 2.1-1 – Control panel

The control panel of the system consists of the following:

- *ALARM CANCEL* push-button – used for stopping the system alarm (R11 potential free contact) and to display and toggle unresolved alarms on the control display.
- Touch screen display for programming and monitoring.

2.2. Control Display

Figure 2.2-1 – Control display

The control display is a color touch-screen panel. Each operation on the display is carried out by pressing gently on the display. Activating a button is carried out by pressing gently on the display where the button appears. Changing numeric values is carried out by pressing gently on the display where the value is written.

2.2.1. Entering Numeric Values

Several screens (e.g. *LINE* screen) have one or more editable numeric items (e.g. the percentage of each layer). To modify the value of an item, follow these steps:

1. Select the item that you want to edit by pressing gently on the display where the item is written. A pop-up screen with a numeric keypad will appear on the display.
2. Enter the new value using the numeric keypad. If the item has a decimal point, use the '.' key to move to the fractional part. For example, to enter 12.3, push '1', '2', '.' followed by '3'.
3. Press the *Enter* key to confirm the change. The keypad screen will close and the item will get the new value.

Cancel editing by pressing the *X* button in the keypad screen.

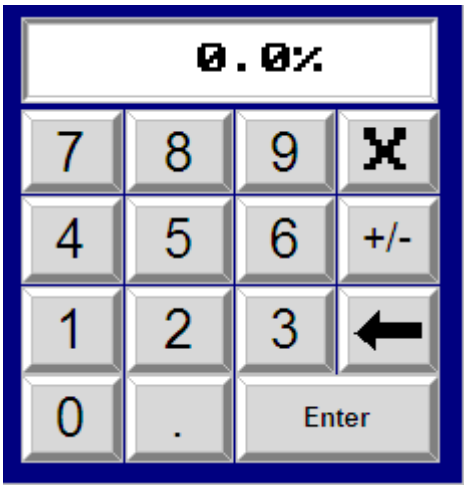


Figure 2.2-2 – Numeric keypad

2.2.2. Line Screen

The line screen is the main screen of the system. This screen shows the production parameters. Press the *LINE* button to switch the display to the line screen.

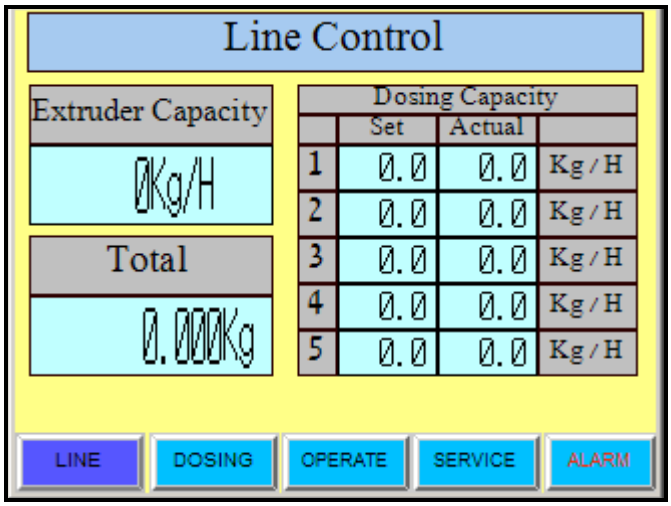


Figure 2.2-3 – Line screen

The line screen shows the following data:

- *Extruder Capacity* – the capacity of the extruder in Kilograms per Hour.
- *Dosing Capacity* – the set and actual capacity of each channel of the dosing system in Kilograms per Hour.
- *Total* – the total amount of material dispensed from the dosing system in Kilograms.

2.2.3. Dosing Screen

The dosing screen is used for setting the dosing formula of the system. The dosing formula is the percentage of each channel in the material blend that is fed to the production machine. Press the *DOSING* button to switch the display to the dosing screen.

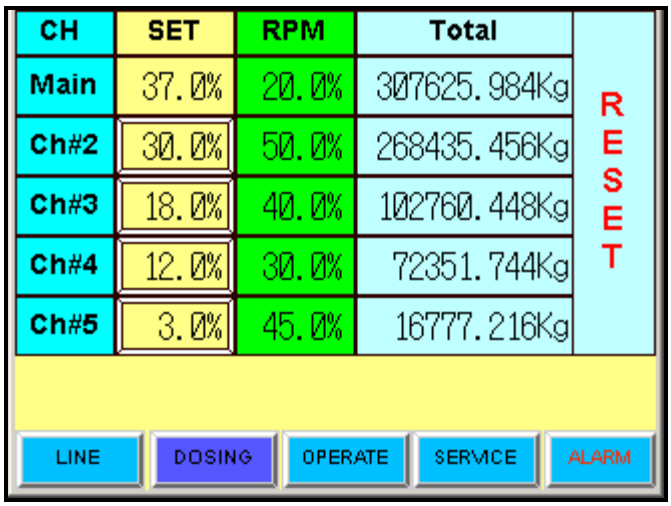


Figure 2.2-4 – Dosing screen

The dosing screen shows the following data:

- *SET* – the desired percentage of each channel in the dosing formula.
- *RPM* – the current RPM of the extruder and the screw feeders of each channel.
- *Total* – the total amount of material dispensed at each channel.

Enter the required percentage of material from each channel (Ch#2 – Ch#5) and the percentage of the main channel will adjust itself automatically to make up 100%.

2.2.4. Operate Screen

The operate screen is used for turning on and off the material conveyors. Press the *OPERATE* button to switch the display to the operate screen.

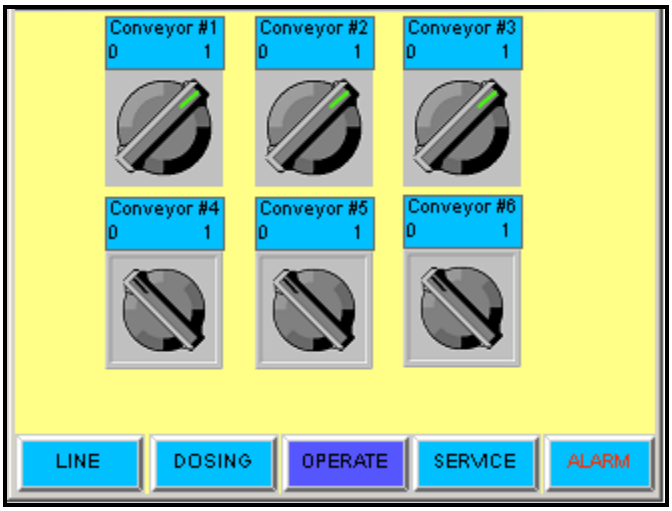


Figure 2.2-5 – Dosing screen

Turn on and off the material conveyor for each Graviman (each channel) by pressing the corresponding switch in the operate screen.

2.2.5. Service Screen

The service screen is used for setting different parameters of the system. Press the *SERVICE* button to switch the display to the service screen.

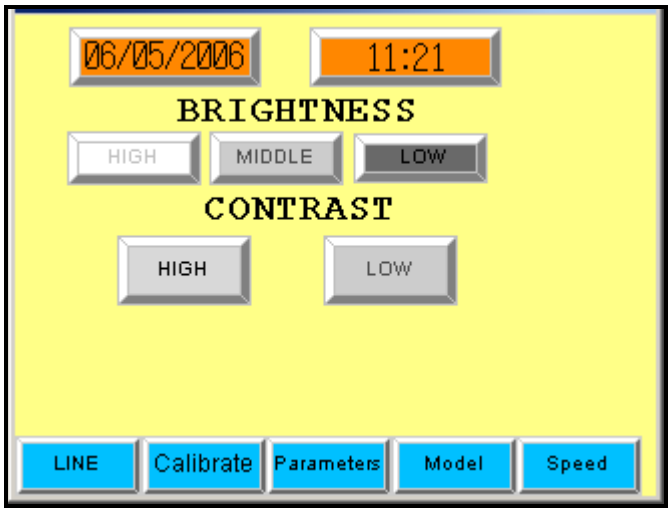


Figure 2.2-6 – Dosing screen

In the main service screen set the correct time and date and adjust the brightness and contrast of the operation display.
Press *Calibration*, *Parameters*, *Model* or *Speed* buttons to select one of the service screens. See Maintenance and Servicing chapter for complete details on the different service screens.

2.3. Graviman Control Box

Figure 2.3-1 – Graviman control box

Each Graviman has a control box with the following switches:

1. *GRAVIMAN* switch with 3 modes:
   - *OPEN* – the filling valve is always open (for system drainage)
   - *CLOSE* – the filling valve is always closed (for calibration)
   - *AUTO* – the filling valve opens and closes automatically to keep the Graviman supplied with material (normal operation)
2. *TEACH* – initiating a teach cycle for learning the flow parameters of new material.

2.4. Graviman Components

The continuous weighing-unit provides precise loss-in-weight information from the weighing bucket to the system's controller. The unit has been designed to protect the bucket from all kinds of disturbances. The weigh-unit is made up of three main components:

1. Outer housing which protects the weighing process from being disturbed in any way. Two service hatches in the housing facilitate periodic checking and cleaning of the bucket.
2. Pneumatic shutter to control the weighing bucket filling.
3. Weighing bucket on load-cell which continuously tracks the material flowing through the system.

The following drawing shows a two channel combined Graviman unit with a connective screw-feeder:

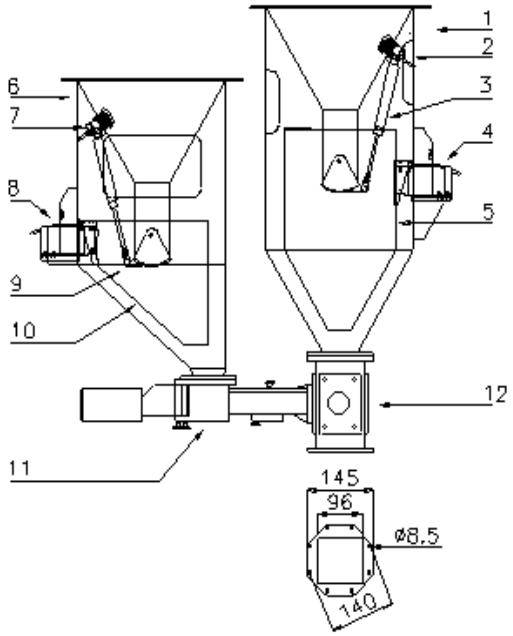


Figure 2.4-1 – Combined Graviman components (two channels)

1 – Main channel	6 – Additive channel	11 – Screw feeder
2 – Material level sensor	7 – Material level sensor	12 – Center pipe
3 – Pneumatic shutter	8 – Load Cell	
4 – Load Cell	9 – Pneumatic shutter	
5 – Weighing bucket	10 – Weighing bucket	

3. Installation and Operation

3.1. Overview

The following is an overview of the steps required to install the Graviman unit and check that it is working properly. The description assumes some prior technical knowledge. For more information contact Sysmetric.
When installing this system, a few basic rules must be observed:

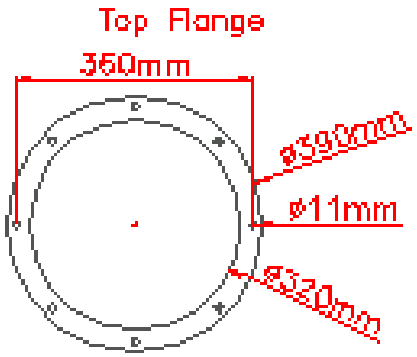
- Leave all service hatches clear of obstruction.
- The unit has to be positioned firmly on the feed throat of the production machine.
- The unit has to be guarded against sources of mechanical damage (forklifts etc.).
- All conveyors of system materials have to be firmly installed.

The system is composed of several components; the installation procedure consists of laying them out, checking them, connecting them to the power and air supplies and then joining them to each other and to the production machine.
The installation procedure includes:

- Unpacking the Graviman components.
- Checking the weighing unit of each channel for damage on delivery.
- Mounting and calibrating the load-cells.
- Mounting the holding tanks.
- Mounting the optional material loaders.
- Mounting the Graviman system onto the throat of the production machine.

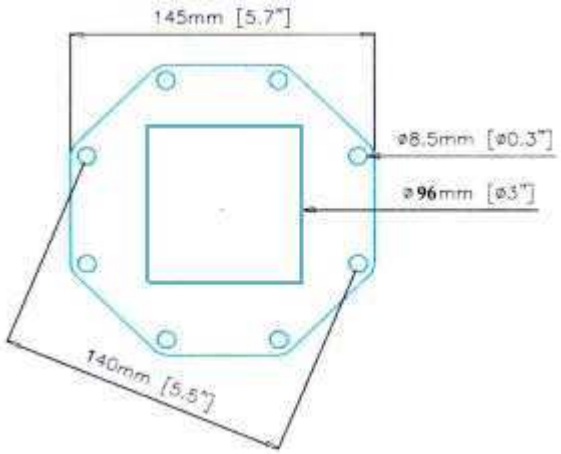
3.1.1. Top Flange (holding tank flange)

Vacuum loaders and other material feeding equipment can be attached to this flange using suitable adapters if needed.



3.1.2. Bottom Flange

The flange should be bolted to the throat of the production machine, usually with a suitable adapter. An optional magnet chamber with a slide-gate, a drainage outlet and a custom made bottom flange for the machine, can be supplied.



3.2. Safety Precautions

1. Checking and replacement of electrical parts must be performed by qualified personnel only.
2. Disconnect the electrical power supply before servicing.
3. Disconnect the air supply before servicing pneumatics.
4. The electrical cabinet contains an electrical potential of 220VAC. The key to these doors should be in the possession of service personnel only.

ATTENTION!
THE PNEUMATIC SHUTTERS OPERATE AUTOMATICALLY AND MAY CHANGE POSITION WITHOUT WARNING

3.3. Graviman Installation procedure

1. Unpack the Graviman components and lay them out in the order that they will be when assembled. Check for missing components.
2. Visually check all components for delivery damage, pay special attention to the load-cells.
3. For each channel:
    a. Place the dispensing unit on the floor, standing on its bottom flange.
    b. Mount the load-cell to the external chassis using the bolts on the load-cell. The load-cell sits on a ¼" thick spacing plate. Make sure the weighing hopper is in the middle of the chassis and that it is not touching anything. Tighten the bolts.
    c. Mount the holding tank extension (with the material level sensor) if it has been packed separately.
    d. Mount the material loader (optional) to the top flange.
    e. Supply air pressure to the pneumatic shutter and the material loader using 6mm hosing.
    f. Make sure the pneumatic shutter solenoid is Normally Closed (an electrical signal to the solenoid should open the shutter).
    g. Check weighing bucket (load-cell) calibration (refer to section 4.2).
4. Mount the Graviman unit onto the throat of the production machine using the bottom flange and a suitable adapter.
5. Connect electrical signals between the line control system and the production machine (see electrical wiring list for details).
6. Connect power supply to the system. Make sure the power line is suitably protected.

3.4. Principles of Operation

1. Turn *GRAVIMAN* switches on all channels to *AUTO*.
2. Press the *TEACH* buttons on the additive channels to initiate a teach cycle for the screw feeders.
3. Turn the *CONTROL* switch to *MANUAL*.
4. Press the *DOSING* button on the operation display and enter the dosing formula (set the percentage of each channel in the material blend).
5. Press the *LINE* button on the operation display and enter the initial *Line Speed*, extruder's *Capacity* and *Gram/m*.
6. Turn on the production machine.
7. Increase/Decrease the line speed and capacity using the *SPEED* and *EX RMP* switch buttons or by entering values in the operation display.
8. When the production seems to stabilize turn the *CONTROL* switch to *AUTO*. The systems will take control of the extruder's RPM to maintain the set *Gram/m*.
9. During operation adjust, if necessary, the *Line Speed* and *Gram/m* by entering the required value in the operation display (the speed can also be adjusted using the *SPEED* switch button).

3.5. Unloading and cleaning the system

Cleaning must be accomplished before switching between materials or before changing additive concentrations. It is also advisable to clean the system before a long break in operation (depending on the material's sensitivity to moisture absorption).
Before emptying the Graviman, all external feeders and loaders should be stopped.

Additive Channel	Main Channel
1 – Service door	1 – Service door
2 – Screw drain hatch	

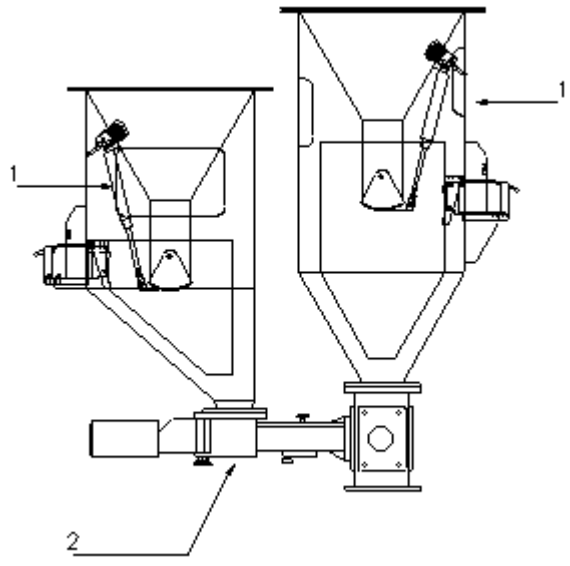


Figure 3.5-1 – Two channel system layout

3.5.1. Cleaning the main channel

1. Stop material feed to the main channel.
2. When the system alarm *No Material in Graviman* #1 is displayed on the operation display turn the *GRAVIMAN* switch to *OFF*.
3. Open the main channel service hatch and clean out the weighing bucket with compressed air.
4. To resume working, start the material loader and turn the *GRAVIMAN* switch to *AUTO*.

3.5.2. Cleaning the additive channel

1. Stop material feed to the additive channel.
2. When the system alarm *No Material in Graviman* #X is displayed on the operation display turn the *GRAVIMAN* switch to *OFF*.
3. Open the screw feeder drain hatch and let the remaining material empty itself into any suitable receptacle.
4. Open the additive channel service door and clean out the weighing-bucket with compressed air.
5. To resume working, start the additive material feed and turn the *GRAVIMAN* switch to *AUTO*.

Note: do not exert any pressure on the weighing buckets. Pressure above 5Kg (10lbs) will cause damage to the load-cells.

4. Maintenance and Servicing

4.1. Tuning the holding tank sensors

The sensors stop and start the feeder system in accordance with material level in the tank. These capacitive level sensors are connected to the PLC by their Normally Closed contact. This means that they activate the input to the PLC when the sensor does not sense material. The sensor has an indicator LED and there are two types: one where the LED is on when the sensor detects material and one where the LED in on when the sensors does not detects material. This manual refers to the type of sensors where the LED is on when material is not detected.
Sensor sensitivity is calibrated using the small screw on the back side of the sensor. The screw is covered by a plastic cap, which should be removed first. Turn the screw clockwise to increase sensor sensitivity, and counterclockwise to decrease sensitivity.

Note: It is a common error to turn the cap instead of turning the calibration screw. This is because the cap has the shape of a screw itself. Be sure to remove the cap first.

4.1.1. Tuning procedure

1. Empty the material from the Graviman.
2. Open the service door and make sure the sensor does not have any raw material in its vicinity.
3. Turn the sensitivity screw clockwise to increase the sensitivity until the LED lights up.
4. Slowly turn the sensitivity screw counterclockwise to decrease the sensitivity until the LED goes out.
5. Turn the screw counterclockwise half a turn more.
6. Check the sensor, a light touch on the front side of the sensor should turn the LED off, remove your hand and the LED should turn on.
7. Close the service door.

4.2. Load-cell Calibration

Load-cell calibration is carried out in order to verify that the load-cell is operating properly and to make the weight reported by the unit identical to the actual weight of raw material in the bucket. It is recommended to perform this calibration every six months. During the calibration procedure, three checks are performed:

- Hysterasis Test – ensures that there's no friction in the load-cell and weighing bucket.
- Calibration Test – ensures the correct ratio used by the unit, to convert from the load-cell voltage output to the actual displayed weight.
- Linearity Test – ensures the linearity of the load-cell.

There are two important points to be noted about these tests:

1. Each of these tests must be performed in order to ensure proper functioning of the unit.
2. There is no point in performing a test if the unit failed a previous test. For example, if the unit fails the hysterasis test then there's no point in performing the calibration test, because there is some friction (mechanical or otherwise) that is preventing the load-cell from working properly.

Calibration Procedure:

1. While the production machine is on, turn the *GRAVIMAN* switch to *OFF*.
2. When the Graviman bucket is empty of material (the systems will alarm '*No Material in Graviman* #X') stop the production machine.
3. Open the service door of the Graviman and clean the weighing bucket with compressed air. Make sure nothing is touching the bucket, and that there's nothing above the load-cell.
4. Press the *SERVICE* button on the display, then press *Calibrate* and then select the desired *Graviman #*. The display switches over to the calibration screen of the selected Graviman. This screen has the following fields:
    - *Ampl.* – displays the weighing amplifier output voltage.
    - *Mass* – shows the actual net weight.
    - *Ref* – the reference weight used in the calibration procedure.
    - *TARE* – this button sets the zero point of the load-cell.
    - *CAL* – this button calibrates the weighing.

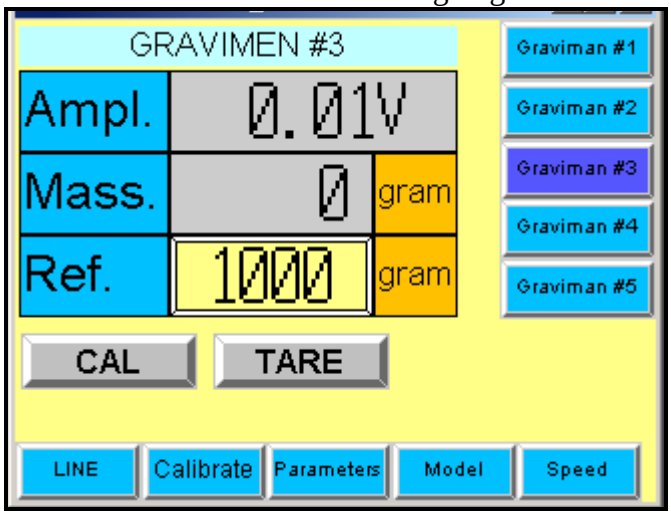


Figure 4.2-1 – Calibration Screen

5. When there is no load in the bucket, the voltage display *Ampl* should show 0.00±0.1V. If the value exceeds this tolerance, make sure the weighing bucket is empty and has no forces exerted on it. If the value is still not zero, perform amplifying card calibration (see 4.3) and perform a complete calibration procedure).
6. Install the calibration tray and wait 10 seconds for the weight to stabilize. Press *TARE* so the unit can "learn" the weight of an empty bucket. The *Mass* value should show 0 (zero).
7. Hysterasis test – gently press the weighing bucket and release it. The value *Mass* should increase and then drop back to zero, meaning that it returned to its original weight. Allow a tolerance of 2 grams. Gently pull the bucket up and let go of it, the value should now drop below zero, and then return to zero.
8. Calibration test – press *TARE* to counter any residual effects from the hysterasis check. Put a reference weight on the calibration tray. The weight of the reference weight must be known within 1g. Make sure the *Ref* value matches that of the reference weight, or change the *Ref* value accordingly. If the load-cell is calibrated, the *Mass* value should match that of the *Ref* value (allow a tolerance of 2 grams). If the weight reported matches that of the reference weight, skip to step 10. If not, perform steps 5-8 again, before continuing to step 9. The reason for redoing steps 5-8 is that it's not likely that the conversion factor has changed because the amplifying card's gain is very stable and so is the load-cell.
9. Calibration – after performing steps 1 through 8, while the reference weight is still on the tray, press *CAL*. The unit calibrates itself and the *Mass* value will match the *Ref* value (±1g).
10. Linearity test – place a weight that is different from the weight used for the calibration, on the tray. Check that the *Mass* value matches that of the new weight. This can be repeated with additional reference weights to verify the whole range.
11. Remove the calibration tray, close the service door and exit the calibration screen by pressing any of the menu buttons.

4.3. Amplifier Card Tuning

Each weighing-unit has its own amplifier card which is suited in the junction boxes adjacent to the weigh-units. The amplifying card is factory-set to work with the system's load-cell. In the following cases the amplifying card should be readjusted:

- Replacement of the load-cell.
- Replacement of the amplifying card (the new card should be adjusted).
- Difficulties in load-cell calibration.

Note: in case of calibration difficulties first try to locate the cause of the weight digression. Voltage irregularities are usually caused by a loose or dirty component in the load-cell and weighing bucket.

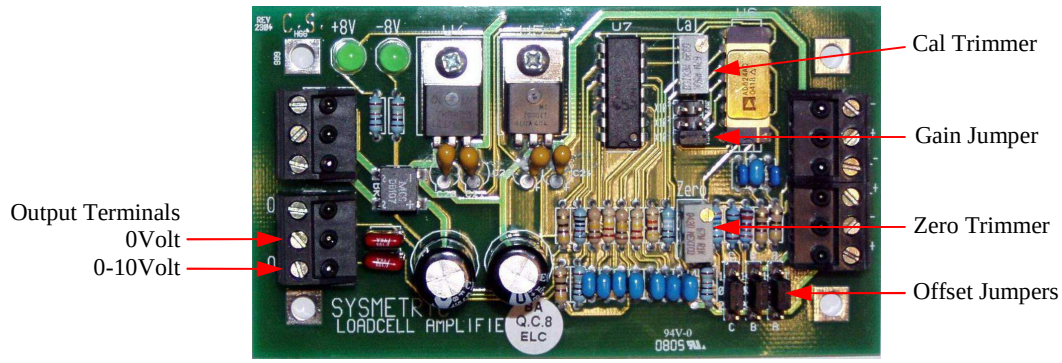


Figure 4.3-1 – Amplifying Card

The following procedure describes how to adjust the amplifying card to work with the load-cell:

1. While the production machine is on, turn the *GRAVIMAN* switch to *OFF*.
2. When the Graviman bucket is empty of material (the system will alarm *No Material in Graviman* #X) stop the production machine.
3. Open the service door of the Graviman and clean the weighing bucket with compressed air. Make sure nothing is touching the bucket, and that there's nothing above the load-cell.
4. Press the *SERVICE* button on the display, then press *Calibrate* and then select the desired *Graviman #*. The display switches over to the calibration screen of the selected Graviman. Open the Graviman junction box and gain access to the amplifying card
5. Make sure that the gain jumper is closing the pins marked 10^1 and that the offset jumpers are at the center closing the pins marked 0.
6. Turn *Zero* trimmer counterclockwise about 20 turns.
7. Turn *Cal* trimmer counterclockwise about 20 turns.
8. Using a voltmeter, read the voltage at the output terminals of the amplifying card and adjust it to 0±0.1V by turning the *Zero* trimmer clockwise. The voltage at the calibrate screen should also read 0±0.1V.
9. Open the service door and install the calibration tray.
10. Put a reference weight on the tray and using the *Cal* trimmer on the amplifying card adjust the output voltage according to the Graviman size. See the following table:

Graviman Size	8 Liter	25 Liter	40 Liter
Reference Weight	1.000kg	4.000kg	4.000kg
Voltage	2Volt	2Volt	1Volt

11. Perform the standard calibration procedure (See 4.2).

Note: amplifying card adjustment is no substitute for calibration. Always perform calibration after amplifying card adjustment, even if exact calibration is not needed.

4.4. Modeling Control Method

An advanced method of controlling named '*Modeling Control Method*' (as opposed to regular methods such as PID etc.) is employed by the system in order to control the speed of the extruder and each screw feeder in the system. The '*Modeling Control Method*' boasts many advantages: high accuracy, immunity to many kinds of disturbance, non-linear control and very high stability.
During normal operation, the system samples each Graviman and 'learns' the angular throughput (throughput per revolution) of the extruder and the screw feeders. It uses this information to calculate the speeds needed to yield appropriate throughputs. The learning process is gradual and relevant data is processed and selected using statistical algorithms.
The system has two service screens for adjusting and checking different parameters of the modeling: the parameters screen and the model screen.

4.4.1. Parameters Screen

To switch to the parameters screen press the *SERVICE* button, enter the password 4321, press *Parameters* and select the desired Graviman by pressing the corresponding *Parameters #* button.

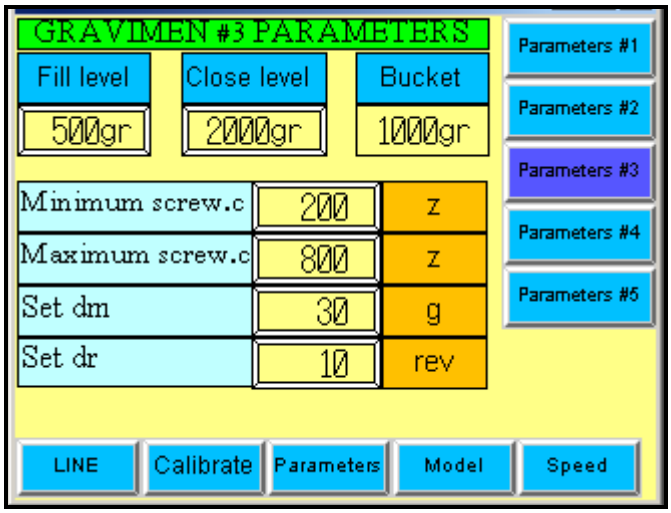


Figure 4.4-1 – Parameters screen

1. *Fill Level* – start of fill cycle. See table below for recommended values.
2. *Close Level* – end of fill cycle. See table below for recommended values.

Graviman Size	8 Liter	25 Liter	40 Liter
Fill level	500gr	2.00kg	4.00kg
Close level	2000gr	8.00kg	16.00kg

3. *Bucket* – the current material weight in the weighing bucket.
4. *Minimum screw.c* – typical minimum for a given screw and material. This value has to be learned: run the screw without interruption and collect some typical results, multiply by 0.75 and type onto the screen.

5. *Maximum screw.c* – typical maximum for a given screw and material. This value has to be learned: run the screw without interruption and collect some typical results, multiply by 1.5 and type onto the screen.
6. *Set dm* – set partial derivative of mass (loss-in-weight). This parameter is the minimum mass factor for calculations. Recommended value is 0.050Kg.
7. *Set dr* – set partial derivative of revolutions (a constant times screw revolutions). This parameter is the minimum screw revolutions threshold for calculation. Recommended value is 10z.

4.4.2. Filling Thresholds

Material in the weighing bucket is constantly decreased in relation to screw feeder throughput. The pneumatic shutter is automatically opened in order to refill the bucket every time material dwindles. All calculations are suspended during the fill cycle because the measured weight does not reflect screw throughput.
During the critical fill cycle, the system controls the screw speed using previously accumulated data.
The data from the beginning of a fill cycle and the data from the end of a fill cycle should allow at least 30 seconds of uninterrupted operation between one fill cycle to the next.

4.4.3. Calculation Thresholds

Screw throughput is not calculated continuously. A number of statistical tools assist in determining the ‘sampling timing and rate’ of material weight and screw revolutions needed to perform the calculation and build the control model.
The operator can determine the *Set dm* and *Set dr* that affect the timing of throughput calculation. A fast rate of calculation will result in rapid assessments, but the outcome will be erratic owing to the nature of the process. A slow rate of calculation will result in good average accuracy but will fall short on the learning rate of the system.
Correct tuning of the parameters will result in a calculation being performed every 3 to 10 seconds with a standard deviation of about 2% (standard deviation results are displayed).

4.4.4. Model Screen

To switch to the model screen press the *SERVICE* button, enter the password 4321, press *Model* and select the desired Graviman by pressing the corresponding *Model #* button.

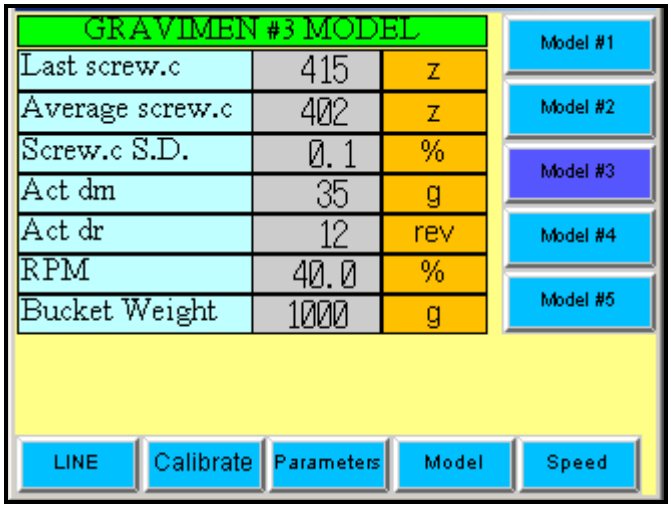


Figure 4.4-2 – Model screen

1. *Last screw.c* – last result of screw throughput calculation.
2. *Average screw.c* – average screw throughput by the last ten legitimate results of throughput calculation.
3. *Screw.c S.D.* – standard deviation of the average screw throughput.
4. *Act dm* – actual derivative values calculated by the system.
5. *Act dr* – actual derivative values calculated by the system.
6. *RPM* – the current extruder/screw RPM in percentage.
7. *Bucket Weight* – the current material weight in the weighing bucket.

The correct ratio of the two parameters, *Set dm* and *Set dr*, should result in actual values, *Act dm* and *Act dr*, just above the derived 'calculation' threshold. Adjust accordingly.

4.4.5. Model results

1. General – each calculation produces a result of dosing screw throughput (grams) per revolution. The result is converted to a normalized percentage scale (*RPM*) based on full-scale screw ratings.
2. Erroneous result – result (*Last screw.c*) is compared to minimum and maximum values (*Minimum screw.c*, *Maximum screw.c*). This check allows disqualification of samples that occurred during disturbances. If the deviation continues for 3 consecutive samplings, a warning is issued: *Graviman #X – Screw Capacity too Low/High.*
3. Normal control calculation – good samples are analyzed statistically. Average (*Average screw.c*) and standard deviation (*Screw.c S.D.*) results are used in further analysis. The results are passed through a high order digital filter that screens out high frequencies and allows the system to adjust itself to rapidly fluctuating material flow conditions.

4.5. Speed Calibration

To switch to the speed calibration screens press the *SERVICE* button, enter the password 4321, press Speed and select *DATA* or *Calibration* screen by pressing the corresponding button.

4.5.1. Speed Data Screen

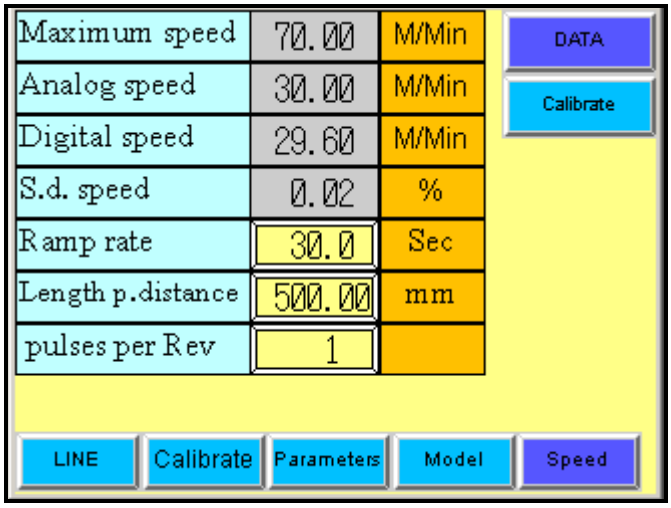


Figure 4.5-1 – Speed data screen

1. *Maximum speed* – is the calculated maximum line speed. This value is calculated based on the speed calibration.
2. *Analog speed* – the current line speed according to the analog input.
3. *Digital speed* – is the calculated line speed according to the digital pulses. This value is averaged over 30 seconds and thus it is accurate only when the line speed has not been changed for at least 30 seconds.
4. *S.d. speed* – the standard deviation of the line speed in percentage units. This value is calculated when the line is in automatic calibration.
5. *Ramp rate* – defines the time in seconds for ramping the production throughput from 0 to 100%.
6. *Length p.distance* – the circumference in millimeters of the roll where the digital speed sensor is installed.
7. *Pulse per Rev* – the number of pulses that the digital speed sensor generates per one revolution of the roll where it is installed.

4.5.2. Speed Calibration Screen

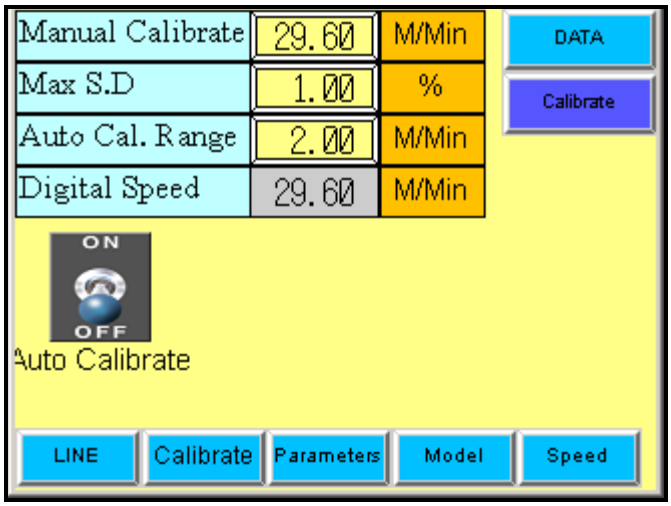


Figure 4.5-2 – Speed data screen

1. *Manual Calibrate* – manually calibrating the line speed. This calibration can be only be carried out when the automatic calibration is disabled. There are two ways to manually calibrate the line speed:
    a. Measure the actual line speed with a measuring device and enter that value in the *Manual Calibrate* field.
    b. Copy the *Digital speed* value to the *Manual Calibrate* value.
2. *Max S.D.* – the speed standard deviation alarm threshold. When *S.d. speed* is higher than *Max S.D.* the system will alarm.
3. *Auto Cal. Range* – defines the allowed range of automatic calibration.
4. *Digital speed* – is the calculated line speed according to the digital pulses. This value is averaged over 30 seconds and thus it is accurate only when the line speed has not been changed for at least 30 seconds.

4.5.3. Auto Calibration

The control system uses the analog speed for calculating the line speed in order to maintain the set gram-per-meter. The analog speed, calculated from the nip-roll's motor driver reference voltage, tends to vary with time and does not maintain stability. When the system is set to automatic calibration mode it uses the digital speed sensor to continuously calibrate the analog speed and, by that, maintaining the correct extruders speed and correct gram-per-meter.
To enable automatic mode press the *Auto Calibrate* switch button in the control display. Pressing the button again will disable the automatic mode.

5. Alarms

An alarm condition exists whenever the system recognizes that something has gone wrong. When an alarm condition occurs the unit does the following:

- The alarm relay (potential free contact) is closed, thereby, allowing any siren or main alarm indicator to be activated. Consult the wiring list for details on how to connect this contact. Pressing the *ALARM CANCEL* button opens the relay but, if the alarm condition continues, the contact closes again after 1 minute.
- While the alarm is active, a corresponding alarm message is displayed on the display. Pressing the *ALARM CANCEL* button also deletes this message. Further pressing the *ALARM CANCEL* button toggles the alarm messages of all active alarms.
- The alarm indicator on the operator panel keeps blinking until the alarm is resolved.
- The system keeps trying to make the correct line production as if an alarm never occurred.

5.1. Alarms Screen

The system creates an alarm log. Press the *ALARM* button on the display to switch to the alarm log screen.

Figure 5.1-1 – Alarms screen

The alarm log shows which alarms were active with start and end time of each alarm.

5.2. Alarms List

5.2.1. EX On & Graviman #X Off

Meaning:

The specified channel needs to dose material but the Graviman switch is off (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

1. The set percentage of the specified channel is more the 0% but the Graviman switch is off.

Action:

1. If the channel is not supposed to dose material, set the percentage of the specified channel to 0% in the dosing formula.
2. If the channel is supposed to dose material turn the Graviman switch to *AUTO*.

5.2.2. Low Material in Hopper #X

Meaning:

Material level in the holding tank is below the sensor level (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

1. Tank loader malfunction.
2. Source silo is empty.
3. Tank sensor faulty.

Action:

1. Check loader and pipes. Is the loader switched on? Is there a blockage or leakage?
2. Check vacuum pump. Isolating switch off? Tripped overload?
3. Check source silo for lack of material or blockage. Is the material moist?
4. Make sure the air pressure is within 6-8bars.
5. Check and tune the tank sensor (see section 4.1).

5.2.3. Low Material in Graviman #X

Meaning:

The Graviman failed to fill the weighing bucket with material (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

1. Tank loader is off.
2. Fill valve malfunction.
3. Material blockage.

Action:

1. Turn the loader switched on.
2. Check the fill valve. Make sure the air pressure is within 6-8bars and that the valve can open freely.
3. Search for material blockage.

5.2.4. No Material in Graviman #X

Meaning:

No material in the weighing-bucket (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

1. Tank loader is off.
2. Fill valve malfunction.
3. Material blockage.

Action:

1. Turn the loader switch on.
2. Check the fill valve. Make sure the air pressure is within 6-8bars and that the valve can open freely.
3. Search for material blockage.

5.2.5. Weighing Error in Graviman #X

Meaning:

Channel 'X' reporting excessive weight in the weighing bucket (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

1. Material overflow in the weighing bucket.
2. Load-cell is dirty or not calibrated.

Action:

1. Check compressed air pressure. Make sure the pressure is 6-8Bar.
2. Clean the load-cell if necessary.
3. Calibrate the load-cell.

5.2.6. Graviman #X – Screw Capacity too High

Meaning:

Channel 'X' screw feeder capacity is too high, *Last screw.c is* higher than *Maximum screw.c* (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

1. Weight per volume of a new material is high compared to the previous material.
2. Screw feeder is the wrong size.

3. Malfunction in the screw feeder speed controller

Action:

1. Tune the modeling parameter *Maximum screw.c*.
2. Replace the screw. Retune the modeling parameters.

5.2.7. Graviman #X – Screw Capacity too Low

Meaning:

Channel 'X' screw feeder capacity is too low, *Last screw.c is* lower than *Minimum screw.c* (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

1. Weight per volume of a new material is low compared to the previous material.
2. Screw feeder is the wrong size.
3. Malfunction in the screw feeder speed controller.
4. Dirty or worn components in the motor, screw or shaft.

Action:

1. Tune the modeling parameter *Minimum screw.c*.
2. Replace the screw. Retune the modeling parameters.
3. Clean the screw and screw motor. Check the bearings and other parts for excessive wear.

5.2.8. Additive #X Speed too Fast

Meaning:

Channel 'X' screw feeder speed is too high (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

1. The line throughput is too high.
2. Screw feeder is the wrong size.
3. Malfunction in the screw feeder speed controller.

Action:

1. Decrease the line throughput (reduce line speed)
2. Replace the screw with a bigger one. Retune the modeling parameters.

5.2.9. Additive #X Speed too Slow

Meaning:

Channel 'X' screw feeder speed is too low (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

1. The line throughput is too low.
2. Screw feeder is the wrong size.
3. Malfunction in the screw feeder speed controller.

Action:

1. Increase the line throughput (increase line speed)
2. Replace the screw with a smaller one. Retune the modeling parameters.

5.2.10. Additive #X Screw Motor Fault

Meaning:

The screw feeder motor driver at channel 'X' is malfunctioning (X represents the channel number).

Possible causes:

The motor driver is malfunctioning.

Action:

Replace the motor driver

5.2.11. PLC Low battery

Meaning:

PLC memory backup battery is low on charge. If it is not replaced in time, the PLC could lose its program and memory contents.

Action:

Replace the PLC memory backup battery within a week.

5.2.12. Ex Speed too Fast

Meaning:

The extruder speed is too fast.

Possible causes:

The line throughput is too high.

Action:

Decrease the line throughput (reduce line speed)

5.2.13. Unstable Speed

Meaning:

The digital speed sensor indicates unstable line speed when the system is in automatic speed calibration mode.

Action:

1. Disable the automatic speed calibration mode.
2. Search and fix the cause of the line speed instability. Usually the line speed instability is a consequence of unstable nip-roll speed.
3. Re-enable the automatic mode.

5.2.14. S.D. too Big

Meaning:

The standard deviation digital line speed is too big, *S.d. speed* is higher the *Max S.D.*

Action:

1. Disable the automatic speed calibration mode.
2. Search and fix the cause of the line speed instability. Usually the line speed instability is a consequence of unstable nip-roll speed.
3. Enable again the automatic mode.

5.2.15. No Pulses

Meaning:

The system does not receive pulses from the digital speed sensor.

Possible causes:

1. Electrical wire is disconnected.
2. Sensor malfunction.

Action:

1. Check the electrical wiring to the digital speed sensor.
2. Replace the digital speed sensor.

5.2.16. Formula Over 100%

Meaning:

The dosing formula sums to more then 100%.

Action:

Check the dosing formula and set a correct formula.

5.2.17. Pump Over Load

Meaning:

The vacuum pump motor overload protection has tripped.

Action:

1. Clean the air filter.
2. Call a qualified electrician to check the pump motor.

5.2.18. Conveying Failure Channel #X

Meaning:

The conveyor on channel #X has failed to load material 3 times running. (X represents the channel number).

Action:

1. Check loader and pipes. Is there a blockage or leak?

2. Check vacuum pump. Isolating switch off? Tripped overload?
3. Check source silo for lack of material or blockage. Is the material moist?

Note: for further information about maintenance and troubleshooting vacuum system please refer to the *Loaders Series S230,S300,S380* operation manual.